

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Disclosed are synthetic oligonucleotides having a nucleotide sequences specifically complementary to nucleotides 324 to 345 of a conserved *gag* region of the HIV-1 genome, the oligonucleotide consisting of 21 nucleotides which are linked via phosphorothioate internucleotide linkages. Also disclosed are methods for inhibiting and treating HIV-1 and HIV-2 infection.